

REMARKS

The Examiner's Official Action dated June 10, 1999 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for a Two Month Extension of Time* which extends the shortened statutory period for response to November 10, 1999. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

Claims 8, 11-13 and 15-91 are pending in the present application and claims 17 and 78-91 have been amended. The Official Action first objects to claims 78-85 as failing to further limit the claims from which they depend in that they merely recite an intended use of the claimed apparatus but fail to recite any further structural limitations. In response, these claims have been amended and reconsideration is requested in view thereof. As amended, these claims recite (1) that an atmosphere in the light processing apparatus contains nitrogen, ammonia, nitrous oxide or oxygen, thus further, structurally, defining the atmosphere within the apparatus; or (2)a silicon oxide layer formed on the semiconductor layer, thus further reciting the element of a silicon oxide layer.

The Official Action 17, 20 and 86-91 as indefinite. With respect to claims 86-91, the Official Action asserts that it is not clear what the term "magic hand" refers to. In response, these claims have been amended to change "magic hand" to "robot arm." Similar changes are made to the specification. The term "magic hand" was selected as a matter of translation choice, but does not conform to English idiom. The use of the term "robot arm" is believed

to clarify this term without adding new matter. Reconsideration is requested in view thereof.

With respect to claim 17, the dependency has been corrected as noted in the Official Action.

Finally, an Information Disclosure Statement is filed herewith citing several references of which applicant is aware. JP 62-54448 and 62-54423 include are in the family of U.S. Patents 4,888,305; 4,986,213; 5,171,710; 5,296,405; and 5,753,542, submitted with the IDS.

For the reasons set forth above, claims 8, 11-13 and 15-91 are believed to be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in this case. If the Examiner feels that any further discussion about this case would be beneficial or would expedite the prosecution thereof, she is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Eric J. Robinson  
Reg. No. 38,285

Sixbey, Friedman, Leedom & Ferguson, P.C.  
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800  
McLean, Virginia 22102  
(703) 790-9110